

# Media Matters

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2004

## More Ideas for New Media Specialists : a continuation from the August issue

**Listen to your students.** Often we overlook their opinions about books, and they are the people we're buying for. Do a survey early in the school year, and find out what they like and dislike in literature. Then, if you can, buy some of those titles. The kids will be thrilled.

**Decorate:** do something to make the library look noticeably different/better than it did before. Try a interactive bulletin board.

**Changes:** Don't make changes right away. Talk to teachers and administrators and even students to find out how and why certain procedures have been established. Gradually introduce changes that will make your life and their lives better and easier. Be aware that some changes may not be possible until you've built your program and gained trust. If the change involves operational logistics, be prepared for solid reasons for making the change

**Mail:** They will need to add an annex on to your school mailbox. You will receive a ton of mail. Stand next to recycling bin as you go through the mail, and discard as much as possible.

### Catalogs from publishers and vendors:

1. Set up a filing system (usually alphabetical by company name is best). Date each catalog and file it. Keep only ONE copy of each catalog, throwing out the old ones as soon as new ones arrive. (this is a good job for a volunteer).
2. Sort catalogs into reference (keep all year, for basics) and browsing (new titles, etc.) piles. Browse through catalogs during faculty meetings, while watching the news, etc.
3. Tear out the catalog pages of titles you want to consider. Highlight the choices and put the pages into a file. Throw the rest of the catalog away. Most of the major jobbers will have the items you've selected, and you can search using the information you've saved.

**Enjoy your wonderful new profession.** As Cindy Thompson of Clayton County says, "This is the hardest job you'll ever love."

What do these verbs have in common?

**Bring, buy, catch, fight, seek, teach, think, wreak.**

Find the answer on Page 7

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We the People	2
Why I Love My Media Center	3
Ga. Peach Award	4
Ferst Foundation	7
Calendar	8

## 2004 We the People Grant Recipients

Martin Luther King Elementary (Albany)	Upper Dade County Elementary: Brent Wheeler	Midvale Elementary (DeKalb): Susan K.S. Grigsby
Kittredge Magnet School (DeKalb): Becky England	St. John Neumann Regional Catholic School (Lilburn): Kathy Schmidt	Tunnel Hill Elementary Beverly Stewart
Booker T. Washington H.S. (Atlanta)	Perry Primary : Deanna Avery	Apalachee High School (Winder): Colleen Mills Williams
Lamar County High School: Monica Walters	Thomas Crossroads Elementary (Coweta): Jennifer Harkleroad	Union County High School: Doris Durbin
Carrollton Elementary : Jane Toth	Mattie Lively Elementary (Bulloch)	Ashworth Middle School (Gordon) Wayne Smoot
Newton County High School Nita Davis, Linda Wade	Allgood Elementary (DeKalb) Ann Leard Bender	Matt Elementary (Forsyth): Lou Dewberry
Kanoheda Elementary (Gwinnett): Melanie Wible	Dade Middle School (Trenton): Patsy Cannon	Winder-Barrow Middle School: Marianne Green
Redan High School (DeKalb): Evelyne LaMar, Evelyn Smith		

### 2005 We the People Bookshelf :

The American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are accepting applications for the We The People Bookshelf on "freedom" grants. Part of the NEH's We the People initiative, the annual grant project will award sets of 15 classic books for young readers to 1,000 libraries across the country.

Libraries interested in receiving the collection are required to develop and host a program to introduce the collection and its theme of "freedom" to students and/or patrons.

Guidelines and applications for Round One are available online at [www.ala.org/wethepeople](http://www.ala.org/wethepeople) until October 20, 2004.

Applications for Round Two will be accepted from December 16, 2004 to February 16, 2005.

What our students say when you ask  
 “Why do you love your library media center?”

I can relax there.

The librarians always have a positive attitude and give us loving care.

We always have new books so there is always something interesting to read.

The library has an extensive variety of books and the staff are quite friendly and helpful.

Whenever I enter the library, I can count on a laugh from the librarians and also lots of help.

If a book isn't there, they will hold it for me when it comes back, and they aren't mean if you get confused.


I can help with what I need and we trade compliments.

This library is awesome; the best I've ever had!

The book racks are in a neat order.

Our school library has great books and even greater librarians.

I love the homey atmosphere.

All I can say is  !

**Thanks to Sheila Holloway, Media Specialist at Bert Rumble Middle School in Houston County.**

Did you know that in 2003-2004 the average age of a Georgia Library Media Specialists was 47?



Source: Georgia Department of Education

We read.  
 We grow.  
 We know.  
 We go!

Motto found on West Jackson Intermediate School Web site

## Georgia Peach Teen Readers' Choice Award Nominees 2004

911: The Book of Help, Michael Cart. SLJ, BL

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/professionaldev/Cartspot.htm>

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/authordetail.cfm?authorID=8568>

In 911: The Book of Help, award-winning writers share their responses to the September 11, 2001 tragedy and describe the heroism of those who first rushed to help. The works in 911 are donated, and 50 percent of the net proceeds will go to a charity assisting children and spouses of victims.

Born Confused, Tanuja Desai Hidier. SLJ, BL, YALSA Best Books for Young Adults

Dimple Lala doesn't know what to think. Her parents are from India, and she's spent her whole life resisting their traditions. Then suddenly she gets to high school and everything Indian is trendy. To make matters worse, her parents arrange for her to meet a "suitable boy." Of course it doesn't go well -- until Dimple goes to a club and finds him spinning a magical web. Suddenly the suitable boy is suitable because of his sheer unsuitability. Complications ensue. This is a funny, thoughtful story about finding your heart, finding your culture, and finding your place in America.

Breathing Underwater, Alex Finn. SLJ, BL

<http://www.alexflinn.com/>

Intelligent, popular, handsome, and wealthy, 16-year-old Nick Andreas is pretty much perfect -- on the outside, at least. What no one knows -- not even his best friend -- is the terror that Nick faces every time he is alone with his father. Then he and Caitlin fall in love, and Nick thinks his problems are over. Caitlin is the one person who he can confide in. But when things start to spiral out of control, Nick must face the fact that he's gotten more from his father than green eyes and money.

Catalyst, Laurie Halse Anderson. SLJ

<http://www.writerlady.com/>

Meet Kate Malone--straight-- a science and math geek, minister's daughter, ace long-distance runner, new girlfriend (to Mitchell "Early Decision Harvard" Pangborn III), unwilling family caretaker, and emotional avoidance champion. Kate manages her life by organizing it as logically as the periodic table. She can handle it all--or so she thinks. Then, things change as suddenly as a string of chemical reactions; first, the Malones' neighbors get burned out of their own home and move in. Kate has to share her room with her nemesis, Teri Litch, and Teri's little brother. The days are ticking down and she's still waiting to hear from the only college she applied to: MIT. Kate feels that her life is spinning out of her control--and then, something happens that truly blows it all apart. Set in the same community as the remarkable Speak, Catalyst is a novel that will change the way you look at the world.

First Part Last, Angela Johnson. SLJ, BL

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/johnson.html>

Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy -- impulsive, eager, restless. On his 16th birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption.

The Gospel According to Larry, Janet Tashjian. SLJ Starred Review, BL Starred Review

<http://www.janettashjian.com/>

Josh Swensen is not your average 17-year-old. At the age of two, he was figuring out algebraic equations with colored magnetic numbers. He is a prodigy who only wants to make the world a better place. Josh's wish comes true when his virtual alter ego, Larry, becomes a huge media sensation. Larry has his own Web site where he posts sermons on anti-consumerism and has a large following of adults and teens. Meanwhile, Larry's identity is a mystery to everyone. While it seems as if the whole world is trying to figure out Larry's true identity, Josh feels trapped inside his own creation. What will happen to the world, and to Larry, if he is exposed?

Green Angel, Alice Hoffman. SLJ, BL

<http://www.alicehoffman.com/>

When her family is lost in a terrible disaster, 15-yr-old Green is haunted by loss and by the past. Struggling to survive physically and emotionally in a place where nothing seems to grow and ashes are everywhere, Green retreats into the ruined realm of her garden. But in destroying her feelings, she also begins to destroy herself, erasing the girl she'd once been as she inks ravens into her skin. It is only through a series of mysterious encounters -- with a ghostly white dog and a mute boy -- that Green relearns the lessons of love and begins to heal as she tells her own story.

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini. SLJ, BL, LJ

<http://www.khaledhosseini.com/>

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption, and it is also about the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

The Known World, Edward P. Jones. BL, National Book Award Finalist

[http://www.harpercollins.com/catalog/author\\_xml.asp?authorid=5002](http://www.harpercollins.com/catalog/author_xml.asp?authorid=5002)

Henry Townsend, a black farmer, bootmaker, and former slave, has a fondness for *Paradise Lost* and an unusual mentor -- William Robbins, perhaps the most powerful man in antebellum Virginia's Manchester County. Under Robbins's tutelage, Henry becomes proprietor of his own plantation -- as well as of his own slaves. When he dies, his widow, Caldonia, succumbs to profound grief, and things begin to fall apart at their plantation: slaves take to escaping under the cover of night, and families who had once found love beneath the weight of slavery begin to betray one another. Beyond the Townsend estate, the known world also unravels: low-paid white patrollers stand watch as slave "speculators" sell free black people into slavery, and rumors of slave rebellions set white families against slaves who have served them for years.

Left for Dead, Pete Nelson. SLJ, BL

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?0385730918>

The story of the USS Indianapolis, the worst naval disaster in American history, is indeed true. So is the story of the shameful court-martial of the ship's captain, shameful because the loss of the ship was not his fault, and the Navy knew it. Hunter Scott became the catalyst for the survivors' efforts to clear their captain's name and set the record straight. This is the story of the ship, her brave sailors, their wronged captain, and a young man's crusade to right an old injustice.

Lirael, Garth Nix. SLJ, BL

<http://www.garthnix.co.uk/>

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~garthnix/>

In this sequel to the critically acclaimed *Sabriel*, Garth Nix draws readers deeper into the magical landscape of the Old Kingdom and weaves a spellbinding tale of discovery, destiny, and danger.

The Merlin Conspiracy, Diana Wynne Jones. SLJ, BL

<http://www.dianawynnejones.com/>

Two friends, Roddy and Grundo, suspect a conspiracy, but no adult will believe them. When a boy from another world, Nick, blunders into the trouble on Blest, Roddy tries to enlist his help. But what can three children who are just discovering their magical talents do against the new Merlin, the Earthmistress, and the dark powers they're calling up? The dangers are great, and if Roddy, Grundo, and Nick fail to stop the conspirators before they disrupt the balance of magic, the results will be far more far-reaching and destructive than they can imagine.

No More Dead Dogs, Gordon Korman. BL

<http://gordonkorman.com/>

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt. SLJ, LJ, BL

<http://www.idiotsguides.com/static/guides/us/pact.html#author>

They grew up on the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attain that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors.

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi. SLJ, BL

<http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels/satrapi.html>

Originally published to wide critical acclaim in France, where it elicited comparisons to Art Spiegelman's Maus, Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to 14, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

A Stone in My Hand, Cathryn Clinton. SLJ, BL Editors' Choice

<http://www.candlewick.com/cwp/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=0763613886&pix=n>

Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to the militant extremists' violent way of life.

Stoner & Spaz, Ron Koertge. SLJ, BL Starred Review, Printz Honor Book

<http://www.candlewick.com/cwp/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=0763616087&pix=n>

A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman.

Uncommon Faith, Trudy Krisher. SLJ, BL

In Millbrook, MA, in the summer of 1837, a fire in the livery killed six people and injured many more. But that was only the beginning of the change in this small New England town. Ten characters tell the tangled tale, including friends and classmates of Faith Common, a brash and outspoken 14-year-old who champions the underdog and rallies the girls against a cruel schoolmaster who believes that "teaching a girl to master geometry is a bit like teaching a mule to dance."

Under A War-Torn Sky, L.M. Elliott. SLJ, BL

[http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/elliott\\_under.htm](http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/elliott_under.htm)

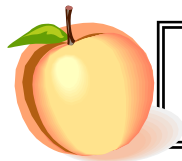
(not an official site)

After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, 19-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.

When the Emperor Was Divine, Julie Otsuka. LJ, BL

<http://www.randomhouse.com/boldtype/0902/otsuka/>

Julie Otsuka's commanding debut novel paints a portrait of the Japanese internment camps unlike any we have ever seen. With crystalline intensity and precision, Otsuka uses a single family to evoke the deracination—both physical and emotional—of a generation of Japanese Americans. In five chapters, each flawlessly executed from a different point of view—the mother receiving the order to evacuate; the daughter on the long train ride to the camp; the son in the desert encampment; the family's return to their home; and the bitter release of the father after more than four years in captivity—she has created a small tour de force, a novel of unrelenting economy and suppressed emotion. Spare, intimate, arrestingly understated, When the Emperor Was Divine is a haunting evocation of a family in wartime and an unmistakably resonant lesson for our times. It heralds the arrival of a singularly gifted new novelist.



**Need more information on the Georgia Peach Award? Check out the Web page on GLC at: <http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/pandp/media/peachbookaward.htm>**



## Do you know about The Ferst Foundation?

The Ferst Foundation's mission is to provide books for local communities to prepare all Georgia preschool children for reading and learning success.

Inspired by the success of the Dollywood Foundation program and in support of this proactive approach to help children achieve success in education and in life, Robin Ferst Howser formed the Ferst Books Foundation in 1999. Originating in Morgan County, Georgia, the goal was established to send the books from Dolly's Imagination Library to every child in Georgia by 2010.

The Foundation strives to improve early childhood learning for every child regardless of income, race, religion, or gender as any child who cannot read is at risk.

Children registered for the Ferst Books program receive a book at his/her home every month until their fifth birthday. If they are registered at birth, each child will receive up to 60 books for his/her own personal library.

Check out their Web site at:

<http://www.ferstfoundation.org>









Answer from page 1

*Their past tenses all rhyme.*



# SEPTEMBER 2004

*We will lead the nation in  
improving student  
achievement.*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Library Card Sign Up Month			1 Edgar Rice Burroughs born: 1875-1950	2 Christa McAuliff born: 1948-1986 Eugene Field born: 1850-1895	3 Birthday of Aliki: 1929- 	4 Richard Wright born: 1908-1960
5 First Continental Congress meets: 1774	6 Labor Day 	7 Grandma Moses' birthday: 1860	8 Birthday of Jon Scieszka: 1954  Jack Prelutsky born: 1940	9 Aileen Fisher's birthday: 1906-2002	10 Roy Doty born: 1922	11 World Trade Center and Pentagon attacked: 2001 
12 Paralympic Games 	13 Roald Dahl born: 1916-1990 Mildred Taylor: 1943	14 John Steptoe's birthday: 1950- 1989 Edith Thacher	15 Birthday of Tomie dePaola : 1934	16 Birthday of H.A. Rey : 1898-1977 	17 William Carlos Williams born: 1883-1963	18
19 Arthur Rackham's birthday: 1867- 1939	20 Sue Ellen Bridgers born: 1942	21 Stephen King's birthday: 1947	22 Autumn begins 	23 Lewis & Clark complete their expedition: 1806 	24 Birthdays of Wilson Rawls, F. Scott Fitzgerald	25 William Faulkner born: 1897-1962
26 T.S. Eliot born: 1888-1965	27 Birthday of Paul Goble: 1933	28 Kate Douglas Wiggin: 1856- 1923	29 Stan Berenstain born: 1923 	30 Truman Capote's birthday: 1924-1984	Banned Books Week is in Sept.	

Where is all the knowledge we lost with information?  
T.S. Eliot